

OUR TOWN

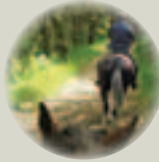
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

DECEMBER 2011



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Around



FIRST BARN LIGHTING

December 2004

ORGANIZED BY

Parks and Recreation
Committee
with help from:
Community Relations
Committee
Youth Commission
Additional Volunteers

FIRST TREE LIGHTING AND MOVIE NIGHT

December 2009

ORGANIZED BY

Los Altos Hills Family
with help from:
Additional Volunteers



Holidays in the Hills



As fall settles in, it ushers in a welcome change of weather. It is a reminder that the holidays are fast approaching, creating wonderful opportunities to visit with friends and neighbors. To that end, the Town will host a variety of family- and community-oriented fun and festive events. Once again, the holiday season will begin with a treasured tradition — the eighth-annual Barn Lighting at Westwind Community Barn. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



The Barn Lighting takes place on Sunday, December 4. This much-loved family-oriented event will run from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and feature activities for all ages. Pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, craft tables, and seasonal games will delight the young (or merely young at heart); hot cider, wine tasting, and holiday carols are sure to please the more mature crowd. Wine tasting requires a commemorative glass, so please do bring cash or check. Who knows? You might find other must-have items, so come prepared. And of course, Santa will be available to listen to those precious holiday wishes.

Local school music groups are invited to perform at the event, so if you have a talent to share, please contact Sarah Gualtieri at the Town's Parks and Recreation Department at 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov. Children are also welcome to play instruments and sing individually or in small groups.

Among other attractions at the Barn—a natural place to appreciate and learn about horses—the Pacific Ridge Pony Club and 4-H students will demonstrate horse grooming and horse management skills. They are happy to provide information on how to participate in their programs.

The first Barn Lighting was organized by the Supporters of Westwind Community Barn in December 2004, in an effort to raise awareness of this exceptional community asset and raise

Musical performances and other activities are treasured staples of the Barn Lighting.

money for restoration. Several hundred attendees made the event a success. The following year Town's Parks & Recreation Department took over, shifting the focus more to children's activities and music and introducing Santa and his stagecoach. It has been a Hills tradition ever since.

The Barn will light up at 4:00 pm, followed by Santa riding off into the sunset in true Hills style. Remember to bring your cameras.

MUSICIANS & SINGERS WANTED

School groups and individuals are invited to perform at the Barn Lighting. Please contact Town Hall to sign up.



Caroling, Movies, and Gingerbread Houses

On Saturday, December 10th, it's the Town Hall's turn to transform into a holiday hub for the whole family, courtesy of Los Altos Hills Family (LAHF).

Beginning at 6:30 pm, come and meet fellow residents for eggnog, treats, gingerbread houses, caroling and movies. The signature Heritage Oak at Town Hall will be lit at 7:00 pm. Afterwards, get cozy watching movies in the Council Chamber or join the jolly caroling crew to spread holiday cheer to nearby homes.

All teenagers are invited to an inaugural gingerbread house-making extravaganza in the Parks and Recreation Building.

Moviegoers are encouraged to bring their own sleeping bags, low lawn or beanbag chairs to make themselves comfortable. Carolers: be sure to wear warm clothing and bring a flashlight.

Festivities will conclude at 9:00 pm. Note that all holiday events will take place rain or shine.

Preregistration is required so please visit www.lahfamily.com to register.

For more information contact Sarah Gualtieri at sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.



TO LEARN MORE:

Visit www.lahfamily.com or www.losaltoshills.ca.gov or contact Sarah Gualtieri at sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

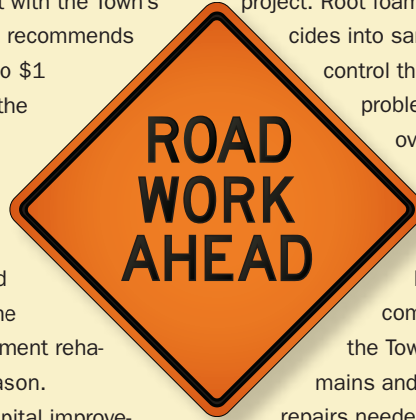
FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The City Council-approved 2011 capital improvement program authorizes more than \$1 million for street repairs. This is consistent with the Town's Pavement Management Plan, which recommends annual expenditures of \$800,000 to \$1 million dollars in order to maintain the Town's public streets in acceptable condition. As a result of these programs, residents can expect to see a number of improvement projects under way on neighborhood streets. Below is a table showing the streets that are scheduled for pavement rehabilitation work this summer/fall season.

Other highlights of this year's capital improvement program include \$186,000 for seismic safety

improvements to the Town's Corporation Yard Building and \$141,000 for the sanitary sewer line root foaming project. Root foaming is the introduction of herbicides into sanitary sewer lines to eliminate and control the growth of roots. Root-related sewer problems include sewer stoppages and overflows; structural damage caused by growing roots; formation of septic pools behind root masses; and reduction in hydraulic capacity and loss of self-scouring velocities. Upon completion of the root foaming project, the Town will be able to video-inspect sewer mains and determine the location and extent of repairs needed to suppress future root intrusions.

Carl Cahill, City Manager



2011 Pavement Rehabilitation and Storm Drain Improvement Projects

STREET	FROM	TO	TYPE OF WORK
Altamont Road	Taaffe Road	Natoma Road	Digouts and 2" overlay
Bentley Court	Burke Road	end	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Concepcion Road	Purissima Road	Elsie Way	2" overlay
Conejo Ct.	Ascension Road	end	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Delson Court	Elena Road	end	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Experanza Drive	Concepcion	end	Digouts and crack seals
Gigli Ct.	Elena Road	end	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Horseshoe Court	Horseshoe Lane	end	2" overlay
Horseshoe Lane	Arastradero Road	end	2" overlay; remove and replace 2.5" AC
La Cresta Drive	Arastradero Road	Viscaino Road	Restripe double yellow centerline
Magdalena Road	Dawson	Camino Hermoso	Digouts and crack seals
Mandoli Drive	Arastradero Road	end of 13480 Mandoli	Drainage improvement; 2" overlay
Miranda Way	Miranda Road	end	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
O'Keefe Drive	Vista Serena	25311 O'Keefe Lane	Drainage improvement; pavement work
Page Mill Road	Country Way	Matadero Creek Ln.	2" overlay
Purissima Road	Roble Ladera	26270 Purissima Road	2" overlay
Ravensbury Ave.	Magdalena	city limit	Digouts; crack seal; centerline stripe
Roble Ladera	Purissima Road	new pavement section	2" overlay
Saddle Mt. Drive	Stirrup Way	end	Digouts; crack seals
St. Francis Dr.	Fremont Road	La Cresta Drive	Restripe double yellow centerline
Stonebrook Dr.	Oak Knoll Cir.	end	Digouts; restripe centerline
Viscaino Place	Viscaino Rd.	end	Digouts; crack seals
Viscaino Road	Concepcion	Purissima Road	Digouts; crack seal; centerline stripe
Vista Serena	O'Keefe Drive	end	Drainage improvement; 2" overlay



FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

In February 2011, the City Council formed an ad hoc Committee to review the Town's Grading Policy and Basement Ordinance. The Committee was tasked with recommending changes that would address the practical needs of the design community and also to help solve recurring design problems associated with excessive grading to accommodate daylighted basements. Based on the Committee's recommendations, the City Council approved the following amendments to the basement and grading requirements:

Summary of Amendments to the Basement Ordinance and Grading Policy

Daylighted basements are subject to the same structure height limits as floor area portions of the building. Since daylighted basements under two-story buildings create three-story facades, applying a height limit to daylighted basements will reduce visual impacts and result in buildings that step with land contours.

Daylighted basements can face road right-of-ways. In the original basement ordinance, daylighted basements were prohibited from facing a road right-of-way to prevent three-story building facades from being seen along streets. This requirement is no longer necessary since a structural height limit is applied to daylighted basements.

Bunkers exceeding 1,500 square feet are counted as floor area to deter large bunker applications that would necessitate excessive earth excavation outside of a building perimeter.

Allowable cut for accessory buildings is increased from 4 to 8 feet to match primary buildings.

Lowest finished floor elevation above grade is increased from 3 to 4.5 feet to be consistent with the 2010 Uniform Building Code.

Terracing of retaining walls is required for cuts exceeding 6 feet to allow for landscape screening to soften appearance of large retaining walls from off-site.

Driveway cut is increased from 8 to 10 feet to allow for more flexible basement garage designs. In addition, Grading Policy exceptions needed to comply with Fire Department requirements or required driveways now qualify for an expedited, administrative approval process with public notice and hearing pursuant to Section 10-2.301(b) of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code.

A full copy of the updated Basement Ordinance and Grading Policy can be found on the Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

LIVE STREAMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Beginning on September 15, 2011, viewers are able to watch City Council meetings from any location with internet access live and on demand through the City's website at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/council/reports. Streaming meetings allows residents to participate in government from the convenience of their own home.

Los Altos Hills recently deployed Granicus' Open Platform and Government Transparency Suite, providing citizens with a powerful new way to engage citizens in public meetings and government events online. Now, online audiences can quickly follow the latest decisions and actions in government through a comprehensive archive library of public meeting videos and government records that are all cross-linked and keyword searchable.

While watching the videos, viewers can access relevant supporting materials like staff reports which are displayed alongside the video. Additionally, users will be able to jump to particular items of interest with index points. Another exciting feature is being able to quickly share the videos to social media sites or by copying and embedding portions of a meeting or an entire video across any blog or public website. And viewers who wish to watch or listen to the videos from their mobile device can do so using MP3 and MP4 downloadable formats.

PREPARING FOR THE BIG ONE

The US Geological Survey predicts that our area will have a major earthquake of magnitude 7.0 or greater in the next 30 years. If you have lived in California for any time at all, you have certainly heard this admonition many times. It is one thing to hear such a warning, but it is something else entirely to take on board the ramifications of such a powerful temblor. It is all too easy to put off those warnings, but the good news is that there are significant steps residents can take today to prepare for future emergencies.

How to Prepare

Perhaps the most effective thing residents can do is to take an emergency preparedness class. These free classes are a little over three hours long and address a range of strategies for dealing with potential emergencies. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District along with the Santa Clara County Fire Department will be holding Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) classes (see box).

Teaching the Entire Town

In the four years that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District has been offering

emergency preparedness classes, over 1000 citizens, or almost 13% of our population, have attended the course; however, this means that 87% of Town residents have not taken advantage of these free classes.

PEP

Wed, January 25, 2012
6:00 pm - 9:30pm

Sat, February 25, 2012
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

SENIOR PEP

Sat, January 28, 2012
9:00 am - 1:00pm
Tues & Thu, Feb 21 & 23, 2012
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm (both days)

These classes will be held at
the El Monte Fire Station,
12355 El Monte Rd.

Advanced Class

The Fire District also offers an advanced class on disaster preparedness, which builds on and goes beyond subject matter addressed in the PEP classes. This advanced class is called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The next CERT class will start on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Rd. This is a five-week class every Tuesday night for four weeks with a final exercise on Saturday, May 19, 2012 starting at 9:00 am. We currently have 154 CERT members living in the Los Altos Hills County Fire District. The PEP class is a prerequisite for the CERT program.

To sign up for any of our Disaster Preparedness classes, go to www.LAHCFD.org or contact Mike Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator, at 650-922-1055.



ENJOYING PATHS

The recreational functions for the pathway system are described in the Town's General Plan: "In addition to providing access to nearby destinations, paths provide a place to exercise, walk dogs, or ride horses. The primary users and beneficiaries of most of these paths are local residents. Path-related recreational activities such as walking, jogging, hiking and horseback riding are among the most popular and rapidly growing forms of outdoor recreation as the public is becoming increasingly more health and fitness conscious."

Now let's imagine one of our unique, scenic pathways, (usually five feet wide) with a jogger exercising her dog (on leash of course), coming up to a family with a stroller and a child on a bicycle, who are standing to the side to let a horseback rider pass. The key to safety here is to follow a few simple rules. The horse, often being the more difficult to control, has the right of way. The horse should proceed slowly while the family stands to the side and while the jogger pulls the dog in and stops, too.

If a horse gallups onto the road, cars should slow or stop as directed by the equestrian (per California Vehicle Code: 21759). Vehicles must also yield to animals in designated crosswalks (CVC 21805). Also, cars should never park on paths.

TOWN PATHWAY EVENT

A Town pathway walk/equestrian ride will be held on Jan. 22 at 3pm. Please meet at the Town riding arena at Purissima Park, 27400 Purissima Road. Horses will walk in the opposite direction from pedestrians. Walk will include some hills and take about 90 minutes.





M eet artist Jacqueline Norheim at the art reception on March 25, 2012 at Town Hall. Norheim was born and raised in Los Altos Hills, attending local schools. She received her BFA from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 2008, where she also received the Christopher Friar Design Scholarship in 2007 and the Renaissance Artist Award in 2008. Norheim also spent time studying at the prestigious Scuola Lorenzo de Medici in Florence, Italy. More recently, she was awarded two Artist in Residence fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center, which she attended in 2009 and again in 2011.

This emerging artist has already shown a great deal of potential, with shows in San Francisco, London, Chicago, and a show in fall 2011 with New York City

gallery Baang + Burne Contemporary, titled "Violently Happy." Norheim's complex, multi-layered paintings use texture and manipulated imagery to explore spatial relationships, and the mystery that is created through the use of negative space, energetic gesture, and varied degrees of opacity. The result is a collection of bold, vibrating paintings that straddle the subtle line between chaos and order. To see more of her work, please visit www.jacquelinenorheim.com.

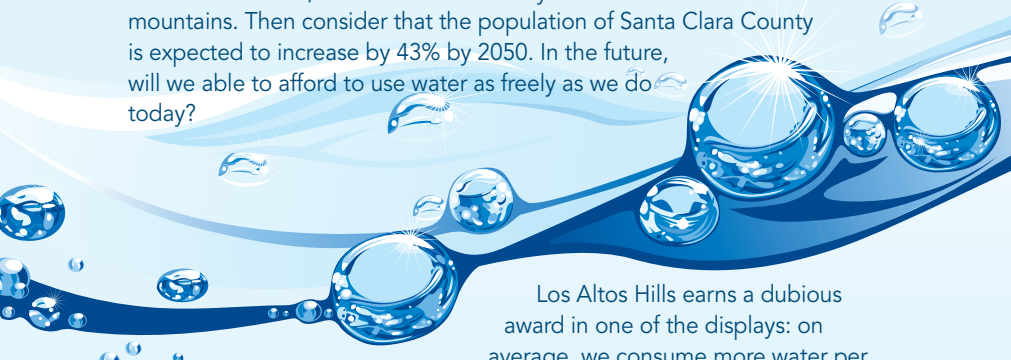
The current exhibit, "The Environment and Conservation," featuring the best work of the over 400 Silicon Valley Open Studios artists, in a juried show, will hang until February 24, 2012. Thirty percent of any sales of this exhibit support The Environmental Volunteers and Silicon Valley Open Studios Artists.

A group of children and adults are gathered around a water exhibit. One child is leaning over a table, possibly interacting with a water feature. The background shows other people and outdoor seating.

WATER RUNS THROUGH US

What is more precious than water? Without it, human life would not exist, including us two-legged creatures in Los Altos Hills. Yet, we often forget that fresh water is a valuable and limited resource. "Shaped By Water – Past, Present & Future," a must-see exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum, provides a refresher on this vital source of life in an artful and enlightening package for all ages. From history to present to future, the presentations provide at times a startling glimpse into our relationship with water. You are likely to exit with a desire to take action.

Consider this: the water that flows from your faucet has travelled hundreds of miles, from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Then consider that the population of Santa Clara County is expected to increase by 43% by 2050. In the future, will we be able to afford to use water as freely as we do today?

A stylized graphic of a water splash with several bubbles and droplets, rendered in shades of blue and white.

Los Altos Hills earns a dubious award in one of the displays: on average, we consume more water per person per day than any neighboring town — an incredible average of 256 gallons. Los Altos is second with 157 gallons, followed by Palo Alto (96) and Menlo Park (94).

Hands-on exhibits provide an engaging opportunity for youngsters. Can you count the water jugs in the courtyard? Which food took the most water to produce? Are you strong enough to lift the water bucket? How about a stroll through the river rock garden?

Art and activities are an integral part of the exhibit, which took thousands of hours of research and building by a team of museum and community volunteers. Linda Gass, Exhibit Chair and a local artist, hopes that art and interactive exhibits will ignite an emotional connection with water. "I would like people to take away an appreciation for water, a love for water and our watersheds," Gass noted at the opening reception.

A series of programs and community events complement the exhibit. For example, January 13 through 16, artist Daniel McCormick will lead the building of a Watershed Sculpture at Adobe Creek in Redwood Grove. In March, experts will lead a bus tour of our local Adobe watershed. Please visit the History Museum website for registration information.

The exhibition and associated programming is supported financially by several local organizations and businesses. Admission to the exhibit is free. The Los Altos History Museum is open Thursday through Sunday, from noon – 4:00 p.m. The museum is located behind the Los Altos Library at 51 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022. For further information visit www.losaltoshistory.org or call 650-948-9427.

UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES

YOUTH CLASSES

Spy Academy 12/26 – 12/30
Giddy-Up! Riding Camp 12/19 –
12/22
Blue Angels Youth Ski &
Snowboard Program
1/21 – 2/25 (no class 2/18)

ADULT CLASSES

Pam's Yoga Fitness 12/14 – 2/1
Rally Training 1/4 - 2/8
Dog Obedience Training 1/5 – 2/9
Pilates with Teresa 1/10 – 3/13
(no class 2/21)
Bridge Club 1/13 – 3/9
(no class 2/17)

For more information or to register,
visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov or
contact Sarah Gualtieri at
sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov,
650-947-2518.



HORSING AROUND

Spectacular, spooky and sparkling young riders filled the Westwind Community Barn arena with bright colors on October 22 for the 19th-annual Halloween Horse Show.

The event was the most successful ever, attracting over 50 participants, some from as far away as Morgan Hill, Livermore, and Santa Cruz. The unique and inspired Costume Class was one of 21 classes offered at the show by the Pacific Ridge Pony Club. The event was a schooling show including various jumping classes, flat classes, and the always fun horse and hound, among others.

Pacific Ridge Pony Club is part of the United States Pony Club, the world's leading junior equestrian organization with 600 clubs in the United States and more clubs in 30 different countries.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Great education comes not only from classroom instruction, but also from hands-on projects that offer children memorable, personal experiences. At Gardner Bullis, through a strong sense of community, wonderful groups of volunteers have made possible a full array of hands-on projects that have given students the opportunity to connect with nature and their community. Examples of these include the Living Classroom and the Giving Back programs.

The Living Classroom program is a district-wide program that uses school gardens and habitats to teach hands-on science, math, and history lessons that support elementary school curriculum. Trained docents and parent volunteers provide students the opportunity to experience concepts taught in the classroom through exploration of the natural world. Living Classroom lessons are designed to hold student interest and have proven to be a fun departure from in-class activities.

On any given day, you may find students constructing a worm farm, harvesting and threshing winter wheat to make pretzels, experiencing the challenges of nest building, or planting a Native American "three sisters" garden. If you are interested in becoming a docent with the program, please contact Mike Sanderson (msanderson@lasdschools.org) from the Living Classroom program or Margie Suozzo (margaret.suozzo@gmail.com).

In addition, The Giving Back program, which was implemented last year thanks to PTA and volunteers, teaches our kids the art of giving and of helping others. Some activities of the Giving Back program include a series of field trips to Sacred Heart in San Jose, where our kids sorted food and clothing for people in need; a Halloween costume drive, which collected 135 costumes, donating them to Sunday Friends; a campaign to help tsunami victims, which collected \$8,000 last year and was recognized on the Unicef web site; as well as an effort to help famine victims in Africa, which raised \$2,000.

In December the Giving Back committee will be conducting a Holiday Wish Drive for the Family Giving Tree that serves families in need. To participate in this campaign, please visit: <http://vgt.familygivingtree.org/gardnerbullis>.

MULTI-YEAR TRANSFERS FOR PAUSD STUDENTS

Residents of the portion of Los Altos Hills served by Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) are familiar with their standard public-school matriculation from Nixon Elementary School to Terman Middle School and onto Gunn High School.

PAUSD families living in the Hills can also receive multi-year transfers (good for up to seven years) to Gardner Bullis Elementary School (located near Town Hall) and return to PAUSD with the same priority as other PAUSD students entering Terman for the 6th grade, just the same as Nixon Elementary students and those from other PAUSD feeder schools.

The typical matriculation under this arrangement would be from Gardner Bullis to Terman Middle School to Gunn High School.

For more information on Gardner Bullis' teachers, staff, PTA, facilities, and programs please visit: www.gardnerbullis.org.

FAQs concerning the registration and transfer process, which begins in January, are available on the Town website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/standing-committees/education.

Please consider this unique, multi-year opportunity as we continue building Los Altos Hills' neighborhood elementary school. If you don't have children of elementary school age, please pass the word to your neighbors who do.



CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

Vis for volunteerism — and the Town of Los Altos Hills needs volunteers to fill a number of community committee openings. Opportunities range from the Community Relations and Parks and Recreation Committees to the History and Education Committees, with stops in between.

Currently the Los Altos Hills History Committee is seeking volunteers to help with a number of projects. Some of the History Committee objectives have been to develop a historical web site; collecting oral histories from long-time Town residents; researching the origins of street and

path names in Town; compiling short biographies of prominent Town residents; and working towards the preservation of historical sites in our neighborhoods.

History Committee Chair Nobuko Cleary says she sees her involvement as an opportunity “to volunteer somewhere fun, meet and work with interesting residents, share historical knowledge, and promote more neighbor interaction.” If that sounds like a fun and worthwhile way to contribute to your community, email nobuko.saito@gmail.com.

Residents interested in participating in any of the Town's standing committees should contact the City Clerk, Deborah Padovan, at 650-947-2513 or dpadovan@losaltoshills.ca.gov, or stop by Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.





TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the Town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is January 3, 2012.**

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

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Editor: Glen Reed

Associate Editor: Marita Seulamo-Vargas

Contributing Writers: Karen Druker, Eileen Gibbons, Sarah Gualtieri, Lucy Mangas, Mike Sanders, and Melissa Sucharczuk

Photography: Alexander Atkins, Kathy Evans, Marita Seulamo-Vargas

Proofreader: Jeff Tonole

Los Altos Hills City Council

Ginger Summit, Mayor
Rich Larsen, Mayor Pro Tem
Jean Mordo
John Radford
Gary Waldeck

CALENDAR

**Dec
4**

Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Holiday Barn Lighting

See cover story.
Community or school groups interested in performing at the Barn Lighting should contact Sarah Gualtieri at 650-947-2518.

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Saturday, 6:30 pm

Holiday Tree Lighting and Movie Night

See story on page 2.



**Jan 2012
14**

Saturday morning

LEAD Workshop

Community building program sponsored by Los Altos Community Foundation. Contact mdavis@losaltoscf.org or call 650-949-5908.

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Saturday, 3:00 pm

Pathway Walk/Ride

Meet at Town riding arena at Purissima Park.



**Feb
11**

Saturday, 11:00 am

Los Altos Library

Children's Programs:

Reading Buddies @

Los Altos Library

Reading Buddies is a special program for children in grades K to 5th to encourage reading by reading to a dog! It is offered on a drop-in-basis. No need to register ahead of time.

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Saturday, 2:00 pm

Afternoon Family Movie

at Los Altos Library

Calendar events are also posted on Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

